United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Agency Priority Goal | Action Plan | FY 24 – Q3

Resilience and Food Security

Goal Leader(s):

Dina Esposito
Assistant to the Administrator
Bureau for Resilience, Environment, and Food Security

Goal Overview

Goal Statement

- Facilitate inclusive, resilient growth in the agriculture and food system to sustainably reduce poverty, food insecurity, and malnutrition. By September 30, 2025, annual sales by assisted farms and firms in the agriculture and food system will exceed the previous three year average by 10 percent.[1]

Problem to Be Solved

- The Feed the Future (FTF) initiative's goal is to sustainably reduce poverty, hunger, and malnutrition.
- Recent shocks have erased years of food security progress. Extreme poverty is rising globally for the first time in two decades, while global inequality is also on the rise. The World Bank estimates that 678 million people were living in extreme poverty in 2022, and an additionally estimated 89 million people were living in poverty than expected before the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The World Bank also projects limited progress on extreme poverty over the coming decade. It estimates that more than 568 million people will remain extremely poor as of 2030.

What Success Looks Like

- Inclusive and sustainable agriculture-led economic growth reduces poverty and increases access to safe and nutritious foods.
- Fomenting growth generates jobs and reliable incomes directly through the agriculture and food system and indirectly through multiplier effects across the broader economy.
- In addition to achieving the targets and milestones in this action plan, FTF will make critical contributions to reducing poverty and stunting by 20 percent over the next five years in the areas where FTF works.

[1] These results will be achieved by the overall FTF initiative.

Goal Target(s)

	Achievement statement	Key indicator(s)	Quantify progress*					Frequency
	We will…	**Name of indicator** (units in parentheses)	**Start value**	**As of (Date)**	**Target value**	**Current value**	**As of (Date)**	**Update cycle**
1	By September 30, 2025, annual sales by assisted farms and firms in the agriculture and food system will exceed the average of FY 2022 – 2024 actuals by 10 percent.	Value of annual sales of producers and firms in the agriculture and food system receiving USG assistance ($)	$1.4 B	FY 2018	$5.3 B*	$4.65 B	FY 2023	Annually in Q3
2	By September 30, 2025, women will access $0.86 in agricultural finance for every $1 men access as a result of FTF assistance.	Average value per capita of agriculture-related financing women access for every $1 per capita of agriculture-related financing men access as a result of FTF assistance ($)	$0.47	FY 2022	$0.86	$0.38	FY 2023	Annually in Q3
3	By September 30, 2025, USG food security programs will leverage $760M in new private sector investment to support food security and nutrition.	Value of new private sector investment leveraged by the USG to support food security and nutrition	$234.5 M	FY 2018	$760 M	$677.5 M	FY 2023	Annually in Q3
4	Quarterly, continue to support learning and program adaptation	Number of learning events per quarter (count)	1	FY 2024	2**	1	FY 2024	Quarterly

*Preliminary estimate

**The target value was reduced for FY24 Q2 and thereafter quarters.

Narrative – FY 2024, Quarter 3

In FY 2024 Q3, USAID held one of two planned learning events and met half its target. In this time period, Agrilinks hosted one webinar: What Works to Improve Women Farmers' Income? A Presentation of the USAID Improved Activity Cost-Effectiveness (ImpAct) Review. Attendance of this webinar consisted of 442 unique viewers. Unlike other indicators, which include interagency results collected through the Development Information Solution (DIS), this indicator only tracks data from USAID.

In FY 2024 Q3, the Feed the Future Policy, Analysis and Engagement Office (FTF-PAE) ran the annual graduation scorecards for all FTF target countries. The annual graduation scorecards provide a summary of 15 macro-level metrics to assess each target country's broad progress toward poverty, hunger, and agri-system progress. The language for this milestone was changed from "Distribute the annual graduation scorecard to Missions and the interagency" to "Run the annual graduation scorecard". Two main reasons informed this change: 1) year-to-year changes across many of the macro-metrics have not changed dramatically to shift decision making; and 2) the Interagency is still determining the actions that need to be taken should a Target country be deemed eligible for graduation.

In FY 2024 Q3, the REFS Office of Country Implementation submitted for interagency review the country plan drafts for 15 out of 20 FTF target countries. In doing so, 75% of the target was met. The remaining country plan drafts are expected to be submitted in August, with two of the country plans already in the interagency clearance process. The delayed release of agricultural policies by governments and medical emergencies involving key staff members hindered the timely submission of the remaining country plans.

Additionally, in FY 2024 Q3, USAID held a data dissemination event to highlight the findings of the FTF Phase 2 Baseline and Midline Zone of Influence (ZOI) Assessment in Ghana. About 70 Mission staff, implementing partners and Ghana government stakeholders attended this event.

Goal Team

REFS Front Office

- Dina Esposito, Assistant to the Administrator, REFS
- Nancy Eslick, Senior Deputy Assistant to the Administrator, REFS
- Mia Beers, Deputy Assistant to the Administrator, REFS
- Gillian Caldwell, Deputy Assistant to the Administrator, REFS
- Ann Vaughan, Deputy Assistant to the Administrator, REFS
- Rob Bertram, Chief Scientist for Food and Agricultural Development, REFS
- Patrick Webb, Chief Nutritionist, Chair of the Nutrition Leadership Council, REFS
- John Gardner, Senior Advisor for Food Security, REFS

DEIA Team

Communications and Outreach Team

BIFAD Team

REFS Center for Agriculture Led Growth (CA)

- Jennifer Tikka, Director
- Jerry Glover, Deputy Director
- Steve Morin, Market Systems Division Chief
- Julie March, Production Systems Division Chief
- Ashish Saxena, Input Systems Division Chief

REFS FTF Office of Country Implementation (FTF-OCI)

- Rick Somarriba, Director
- Lauren Ruth, Africa Division Chief
- Sally Rey, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East Division Chief
- Rick Somarriba, Acting Inclusive Development Division Chief

REFS Center for Resilience (CR)

- Jami Montgomery, Acting Director and Resilient Communities and Systems Division Chief
- Andrew Bisson, Acting Resilient Livelihoods and Markets Division Chief

REFS Center for Water Security, Sanitation and Hygiene (CW)

- Jeffrey Goldberg, Director
- Abbie Jones, Global Strategy and Leadership Division Chief
- Sam Huston, Water and Sanitation Technical Services Division Chief

REFS Center for Nutrition (CN)

- Daniel Sinclair, Director
- Leslie Koo, Acting Nutrition Technical Services Division Chief

Goal Team (Cont.)

REFS FTF Office of Policy Analysis and Engagement (FTF-PAE)

- Amy Sink Davies, Director
- Maria Kim, Deputy Director
- Chris Hillbruner, Analysis, Data, and Learning Division Chief
- Kristy Cook, Acting Strategy and Policy Division Chief
- Eric Ambrose, Strategic Engagement Division Chief

REFS Center for Energy, Infrastructure and Cities (CEIC)

- Jeff Haeni, Director
- Bryan Pittman, Infrastructure Division Lead
- Sarah Lawson, Acting Energy Division Lead
- Monica Bansal, Green Cities Division Lead

REFS Center for Natural Environment (CNE)

- Cynthia Gill, Director
- Mary Rowen, Deputy Director and Biodiversity Division Lead
- Stephen Brooks, Land and Resource Governance Division Lead
- Hadas Kushnir, Natural Climate Solutions Division Lead

Program Office (PO)

- Greg Swarin, Director
- George Rowland, Deputy Director
- Theresa Stattel, Budget Execution Division Chief
- Bonita Jones, Strategy Division Chief

REFS Office of Administrative Management Services (AMS)

- Khadija Collins, Director
- Alexander Walden, Deputy Director
- Marcelle Davis, Staffing Division Chief

REFS Office of Environmental Compliance and Social Safeguarding (ECSS)

- Teresa Bernhard, Director
- Jeffrey Ploetz, Deputy Director

REFS Center for Climate Positive Development (CCPD)

- Kathryn Stratos, Director

Goal Strategies

Key Strategies

- Strengthen inclusive, productive, and profitable food and agriculture systems, especially for small-scale producers and micro, small, and medium enterprises;

- Strengthen and expand access to finance, markets and trade; increase market participation and investment, and increase movement, availability, and affordability of agricultural inputs, goods, and services, as well as safe, diverse, and nutritious diets, especially for women and children;

- Increase representation, employment, entrepreneurship and investment, especially for the extreme poor, women, youth, landless, and marginalized or underrepresented groups; and

- Drive sustainable productivity increases while promoting nature- and climate-positive impacts on natural resources and the environment.

Goal Strategies (Cont.)

External factors

- **Climate Change**: Climate change is both a stressor and risk multiplier, which leads to increased crop failures, water insecurity, depletion of natural resources, and more frequent and extreme weather events. Farmers face higher temperatures that stress crops and livestock, and that make agricultural labor more difficult and dangerous. In addition, there are longer droughts and unpredictable rains, and warming oceans are affecting fish stocks. USAID has mainstreamed evidence-based climate adaptation approaches across the three objectives in the refreshed Global Food Security Strategy 2022-2026 (GFSS-R) to help producers adapt to climate change threats and accelerate and protect progress.

- **New Shocks Compound the Long-Term Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic**: COVID-19 pushed 89 million people into extreme poverty in 2020 and deepened income inequality and the gender poverty gap, as the pandemic disproportionately affected women's livelihoods. Global prices for food, fuel, and fertilizer remain high, worsened by the Government of Russia's continued war in Ukraine. A possible record-strength El Niño phenomenon, exacerbated by global warming, could cause widespread disruption of environmental, agricultural, and food systems from 2023-2024. USAID will use its existing FTF infrastructure to mitigate the near, medium, and long term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, high prices, and climate events to help ensure food and market systems continue to function efficiently and effectively.

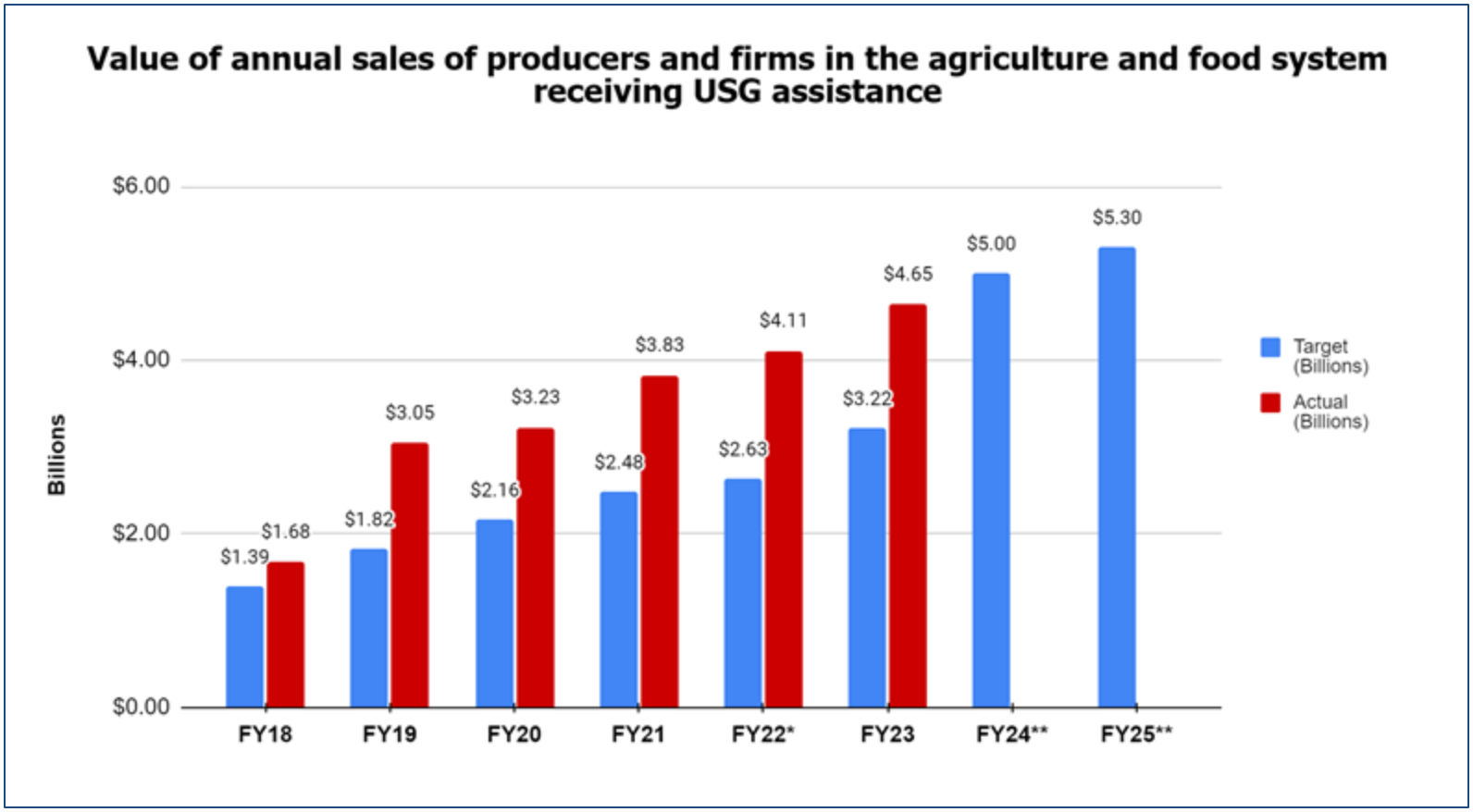
Goal Strategies (Cont.)

External Factors (cont.)

- **Conflict**: Conflict within and outside of the developing world is one of the largest drivers of food crises worldwide. Much of USAID's food security programming occurs in areas characterized by: tension among and within social and socioeconomic groups; social marginalization; and in some cases, outright and active violence. All of these factors mutually affect each other. USAID is emphasizing integrating conflict-sensitive, peace-building, and social cohesion strategies across programming in these areas.

- **High levels of Indebtedness**: The total external debt of low- and middle-income countries doubled over the last decade, reaching $9 trillion at the end of 2021. About 60 percent of the poorest countries are already at high risk of debt distress or already in distress. In 2022, debt service payments were expected to surge 35 percent, greatly reducing the fiscal resources countries could invest to support social and economic development and mitigate and adapt to climate change (World Bank, 2022). USAID's policy work supports increased efficiency of government tax revenue collection and expenditures, and our efforts to increase income and reduce poverty help increase the tax base.

Key Indicators

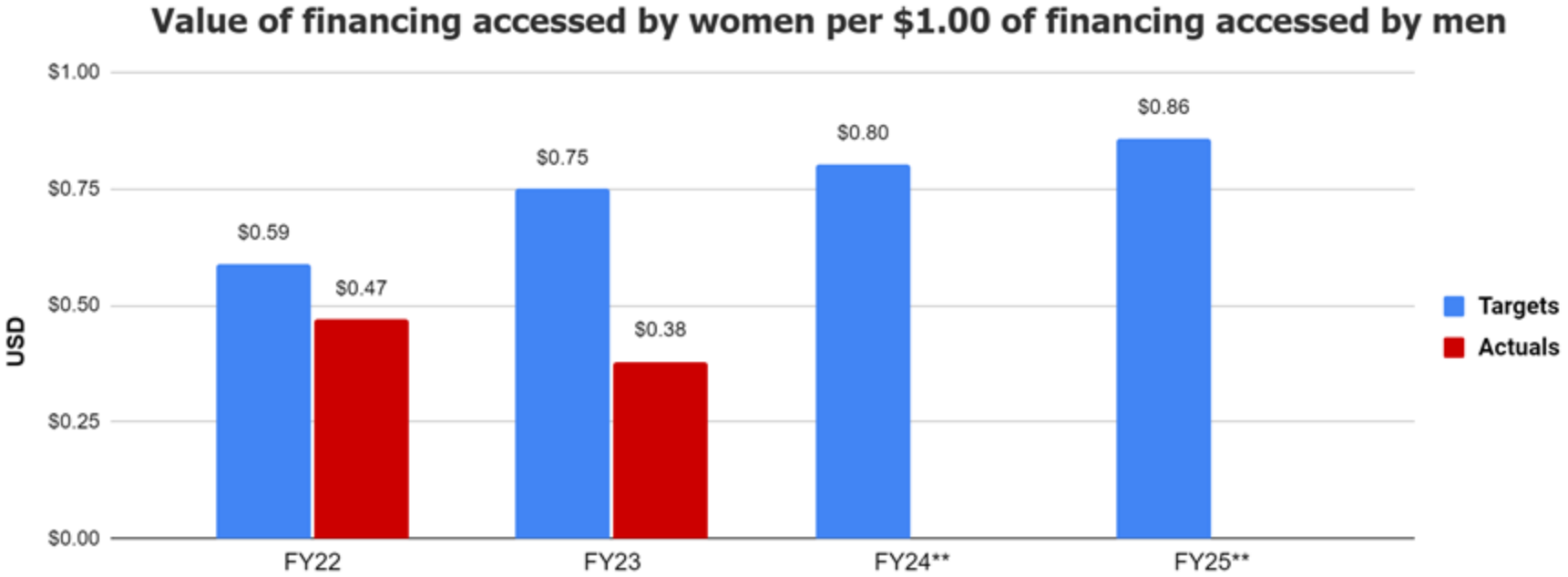


Rationale: The value (in U.S. dollars) of sales from producers and firms in targeted markets that receive USG assistance is a proxy measure of the competitiveness of those actors. This measure also helps track strengthened and expanded access to markets and progress toward engagement by producers and firms throughout the market system. Strengthened and expanded access to markets is essential for achieving inclusive, sustainable, agriculture-led economic growth, which, in turn, will reduce poverty.

***Note:** FY22 figures were adjusted upon further data reviewing and removal of sales reported by indirect beneficiaries, instead of keeping with the indicator definition, by two projects in Nigeria and Bangladesh.

****Target**: The FY 2025 target will be at least 10 percent above the average of FY 2022 – 2024 actuals. The FY 2025 target in this slide is an estimate that USAID will revise and finalize once the FY 2023 and FY 2024 actuals are final. The FY 2024 target is based on a model that accounts for previous actuals and the number of mechanisms reporting, adjusted for data quality considerations.

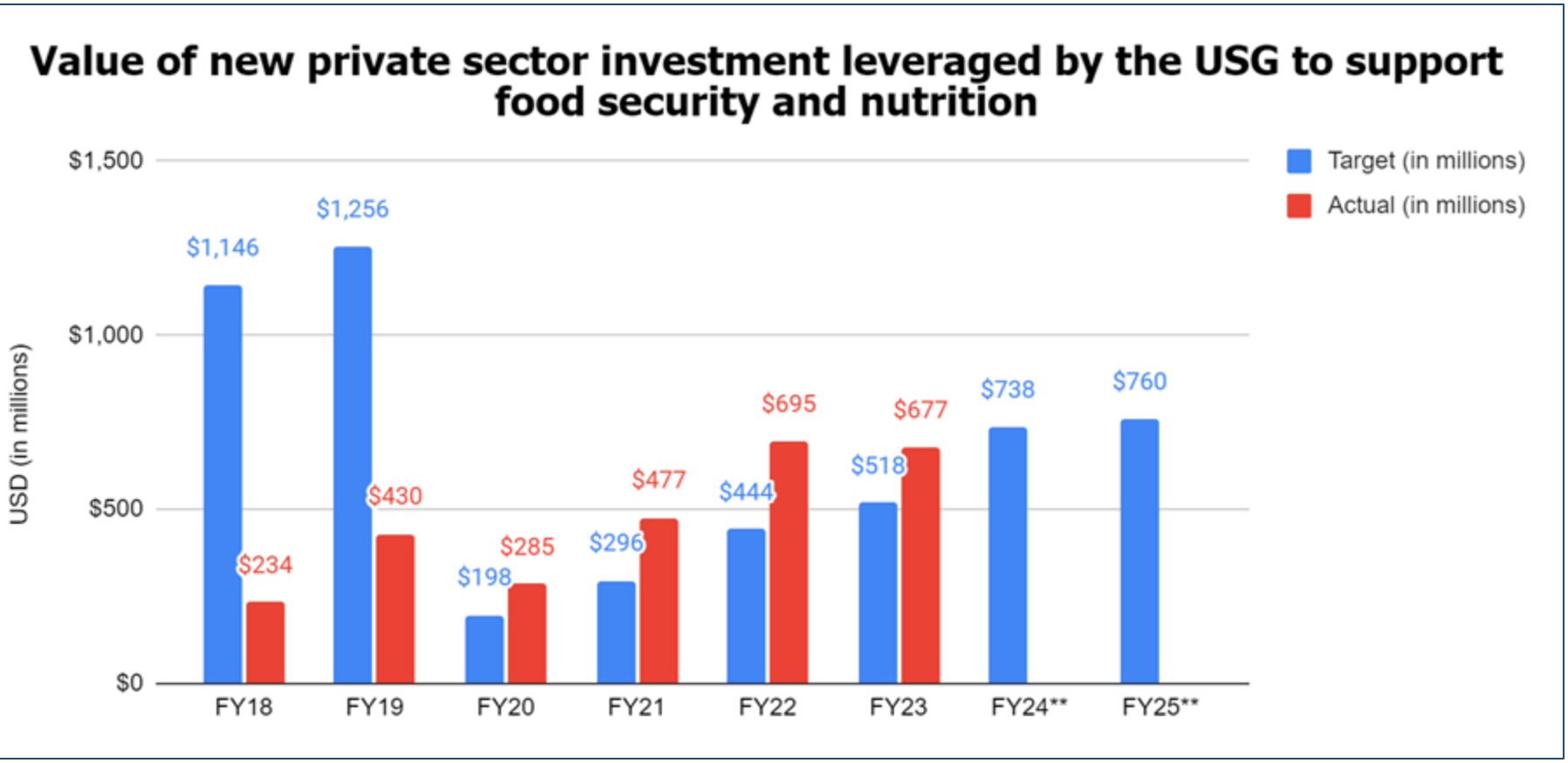
Key Indicators



Rationale: Increasing gender equity in access to finance demonstrates improved inclusion in the financial sector and appropriate financial service offerings, especially for women. This in turn helps strengthen and expand markets and trade, and contributes to increased employment, entrepreneurship, and small business growth. This indicator sums the total U.S. dollar value of debt (both cash and in-kind loans) and non-debt financing (e.g., equity financing), disbursed during the reporting year as a result of FTF-assistance to producers (individual farmers, fishers, cooperatives, etc.), input suppliers, transporters, processors, other Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and larger enterprises in the agriculture and food system that are participating in a USG-funded activity, and divides the sum by the number of financing recipients to get the sex-disaggregated value of financing per capita for women and for men. FTF assistance may consist of technical assistance, insurance coverage, guarantee provision, or other capacity-building and market-strengthening activities to producers, organizations and enterprises. The indicator counts the value of non-debt financing and both cash and non-cash lending disbursed to the recipient, not financing merely committed (e.g., loans in process, but not yet available to the recipient).

****Target**: The FY 2024 and FY 2025 targets are based off the average annual rate of change (AARC) to get from current reporting to the previously-set GROW target of $0.92 cents of financing accessed by women per $1.00 of financing accessed by men in 2026.

Key Indicators

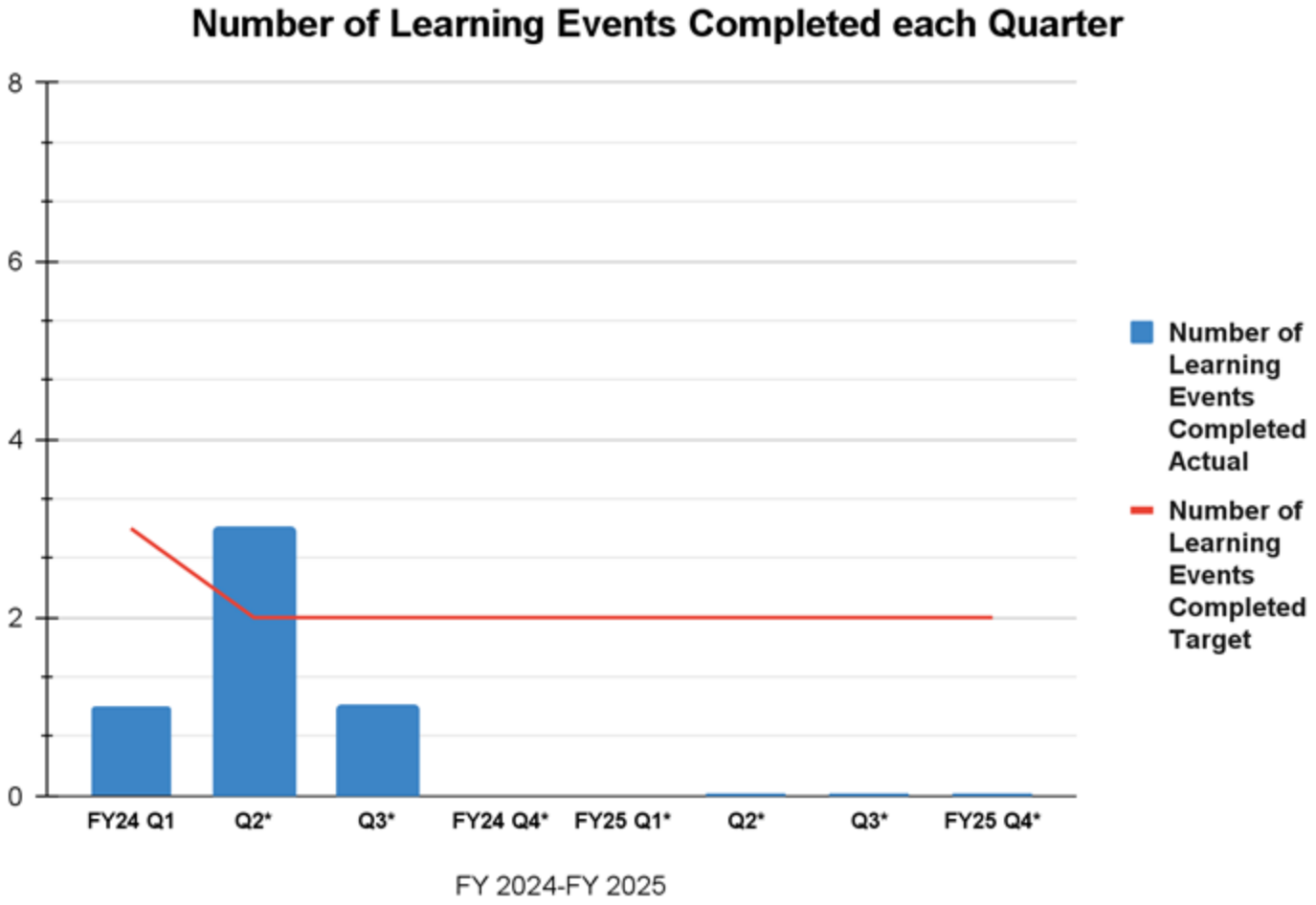


Rationale: Increased investment is the predominant source of economic growth in the agricultural and other economic sectors. Private sector investment is critical because it indicates that the investment is perceived by private agents to provide a positive financial return and, therefore, is likely to lead to sustainable improvements in agricultural market systems. Agricultural growth is critical to achieving the Feed the Future goal to "Sustainably Reduce Global Poverty, Hunger and Malnutrition." This indicator is linked to CCIR 1: Strengthened global commitment to investing in food security in the GFSS Results Framework.

Note: FY22 figures were adjusted upon further data review.

****Target:** The FY 2024 and FY 2025 targets are based on a model that accounts for previous actuals and the number of mechanisms reporting, adjusted for data quality considerations.

Key Indicators



Rationale:FTF is an evidence-based initiative, which relies on continuous learning to improve quality. Each quarter, this indicator tracks the number of learning events through Agrilinks.org. In the narrative section of each quarter, USAID will provide additional information on the reach of the events, based on the distribution of the audiences that participated.
***Target**: REFS received OMB approval to reduce the target number of learning events from three per quarter to two per quarter, for FY24 Q2 and onward.

Key Milestones

Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Owner	Comments
Have at least one private sector partner engagement platform event to leverage private sector resources to be implemented in conjunction with a major international convening.	Q1 FY 2024	Completed	**REFS/CA**	USAID engaged the Private Sector during multiple events, from staff to leadership levels. Two examples include DAA Caldwell met with Mars leadership at COP28, and REFS AtA Dina Esposito engaging with Bayer and Corteva at the World Food Prize.
Submit the country plan drafts for at least half of the target countries to REFS for interagency review.	Q2 FY 2024	On Track	**REFS/OCI**	As of June 30th, 2024, 85% of the country plan draft submissions have been received by REFS.
Submit the country plan drafts for all target countries to Washington for interagency review.	Q3 FY 2024	Delayed	**REFS/OCI**	75% of all plans have been submitted for IA review as of June 30th.
Run the annual graduation scorecard.	Q3 FY 2024	Completed	**REFS/PAE**	The Analysis, Data, and Learning (ADL) Division ran the graduation scorecards for all target countries.
Conduct a pause and reflect exercise as part of the evidence cycle.	Q4 FY 2024	Planned	**REFS/PAE**	
Have at least one private sector partner engagement platform event to leverage private sector resources to be implemented in conjunction with a major international convening.	Q1 FY 2025	Planned	**REFS/CA**	
Have at least one third of FTF Innovation Labs integrate Product Lifecycle Management approaches into their research programs to maximize innovation uptake and scale.	Q2 FY 2025	Planned	**REFS/CA**	
Run the annual graduation scorecard to Missions and the interagency.	Q3 FY 2025	Planned	**REFS/PAE**	
Conduct a pause and reflect exercise as part of the evidence cycle.	Q4 FY 2025	Planned	**REFS/PAE**	

Data Accuracy & Reliability

USAID collects data to support annual indicators for this APG from all FTF countries and U.S. Government (USG) interagency partners, to the extent the FTF countries and USG interagency partners elect to use key measures and report their data. The data captures results within and outside the Zones of Influence (ZOI). USAID compiles the data in the Development Information Solution (DIS), and updates the data annually.

FTF reporting in DIS is part of an interagency effort to consolidate USG reporting on FTF activities. 12 USG agencies collaborate on food security efforts for FTF. Seven of those agencies contribute indicator data to DIS for reporting from multilateral partners – the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program and International Fund for Agricultural Development. These seven agencies include: 1) USAID, 2) the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3) Millennium Challenge Corporation, 4) Peace Corps, 5) the U.S. African Development Foundation, 6) the Inter-American Foundation, and the 7) Department of Treasury.

Data Accuracy & Reliability (Cont.)

FTF verifies performance data using Data-Quality Assessments (DQAs), and the data must meet standards of validity, integrity, precision, reliability, and timeliness. Each USAID Operating Unit must document the methodology it used to conduct the DQAs. USAID maintains DQAs and data-source records in Performance Management Plans, as described in USAID's program cycle operational policy in Automated Directive System (ADS) Chapter 201 (201.3.5.7).

To ensure the data quality, USAID works closely with the USG interagency and its implementing partners to review and validate data. While preliminary data on APG annual indicator actuals for the previous fiscal year and updated targets are available by December of that calendar year, to ensure data quality, USAID does not report on APG annual indicators in the APG Quarterly Report, the Agency Performance Plan, or Agency Performance Report until final, clean data are available in the third quarter of the following fiscal year.

Additional Information

Contributing Programs
A range of efforts from across the USG contribute to this APG in support of the GFSS 2022-2026. See Annex 1: Agency Implementation Plans of the GFSS.

Public Participation / Congressional Consultations
Congress supported USG food security efforts by enacting the Global Food Security Act of 2016. The Global Food Security Reauthorization Act of 2022 reauthorized food security appropriations through FY 2028. The process to develop the USG's GFSS included external consultations with non-governmental, U.S. universities, and private-sector stakeholders. USAID, with its interagency partners, continues to engage with Congress and other stakeholders to implement the GFSS. In FY 2022 and beyond, this includes: completing country plans for FTF target countries; further developing stakeholder-collaboration platforms; and refining the monitoring, evaluation, and learning approach to track progress and facilitate sharing learning and best practices. Developing the plans will be led by interagency teams at post who will consult widely with their host country counterparts, civil society, and private sector actors. Following from the updated GFSS, the plans will include a focus on marginalized and underrepresented groups. The interagency teams will engage these groups in the consultation process, as appropriate.